A REVIEW OF THE SUBSPECIES OF THE LEACH PETREL, OCEANODROMA LEUCORHOA (VIEILLOT).

By Harry C. Oberholser,

Of the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture.

Notwithstanding the considerable attention that has been paid to the petrels of the Oceanodroma leucorhoa group, the last word has evidently not yet been said on the subject. Nor do we consider that all points in this difficult case are settled by the present investigation, which we undertook in connection with the identification of the specimens of this species in the Biological Survey collection; but the following notes on the status of the different forms of Oceanodroma leucorhoa seem worthy of presentation in print while we are waiting for more material to clear up the remaining uncertainty concerning their geographic distribution.

The latest author to discuss the relationships of these birds recognized two forms—Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa from the Atlantic Ocean, Bering Sea, and the Aleutian Islands, and Oceanodroma leucorhoa kaedingi from the Pacific coast of North America from southern Alaska southward. This conclusion, however, was arrived at apparently without examination of the type series of Oceanodroma leucorhoa kaedingi.

For the present comparisons we have had available the collections of the United States National Museum, including that of the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture, and also that of the Carnegie Museum, for which last the writer's thanks are due Mr. W. E. C. Todd. This material comprises altogether 158 specimens, representing nearly all parts of the North American range of the species, and includes the type series of Oceanodroma kaedingi Anthony, with, of course, the type, and also the types of Oceanodroma beali Emerson and Oceanodroma beldingi Emerson. All measurements have been taken in millimeters, and otherwise as in the writer's paper on Butorides virescens.²

We are able to recognize three forms of Oceanodroma leucorhoa, as set forth below:

OCEANODROMA LEUCORHOA LEUCORHOA (Vieillot).

Procellaria leucorhoa Vieillot, Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., vol. 25, 1817, p. 422 (maritime parts of Picardy, France).

Procellaria leachii Temminck, Man. d'Ornith., ed. 2, vol. 2, 1820, p. 812 (St. Kilda Island, Scotland).

¹ Willett, Auk, vol. 32, July, 1915, p. 301.

² See Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 42, Aug. 29, 1912, p. 533.

P[rocellaria]. Bullockii Fleming, Hist. Brit. Anim., 1828, p. 136 (St. Kilda Island, Scotland; based on the same specimen as Procellaria leachii Temminck).
Th[alassidroma]. scapulata Kittlitz, Denkwürd. Reise Russ. Amer. Micrones. und Kamts., vol. 2, 1858, p. 191 (Pacific Ocean off the coast of Japan, in latitude 37° N.; longitude 148° 30′ E.).

Subspecific characters.—Size large; plumage sooty brown, lighter below; head slightly plumbeous; rump white; and tail much forked.

Measurements.—Male: Wing, 145–157 (average, 152.9) mm.; tail, 77.5–88 (84.8); exposed culmen, 16–17 (16.4); height of bill at base, 5.8–6.8 (6.2); tarsus, 22–25 (23.8); middle toe without claw, 19.5–22 (20.6); fork of tail, 15.5–23 (19.3). Female: Wing, 148–163 (average, 155.6) mm.; tail, 80–90 (85.8); exposed culmen, 15–17.1 (16.1); height of bill at base, 6–6.8 (6.3); tarsus, 23–25.8 (24.1); middle toe without claw, 18.8–22 (20.6); fork of tail, 15.5–26.5 (19.7).

Type-locality.—Maritime parts of Picardy, France.

Geographic distribution.—North Atlantic Ocean and North Pacific Ocean: breeds from southern Greenland and Iceland south to Maine and Ireland, and from the Aleutian and Commander Islands to the Kuril Islands. Migrates east to Sicily, south in the Atlantic Ocean to Virginia, the Bermuda Islands, the Equator, and casually even to South Africa; in the Pacific Ocean to Japan and Midway Island.

Remarks.—Petrels of this species from the Aleutian Islands and the middle and western portions of the North Pacific Ocean, including the Commander and Kuril Islands, appear to be slightly darker than birds from the North Atlantic Ocean, but this is probably due to the age of the specimens rather than to any subspecific difference; and since our series does not show them to be satisfactorily different, they must bear the name Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa. A specimen from the Ugashik River on the mainland of Alaska, west of the Alaska Peninsula, taken, December 3, 1881, is apparently also referable to this form.

Average measurements of specimens from the different parts of the range of this subspecies are as follows:

Locality.	Wing.	Tail.	Ex- posed cul- men.	Height of bill at base.	Tarsus.	Middle toe with- out claw.	Fork of tail.
Ten males from northeastern North America. Five males from the North Pacific Ocean. Eight females from northeastern North America. Two females from the North Pacific Ocean.	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm,	mm,	mm.
	152.9	84.8	16.4	6.2	23.8	20.6	19.3
	153.4	84.8	16.0	6.1	24.8	19.5	21.0
	155.6	85.8	16.1	6.3	24.1	20.6	19.7
	153.8	84.8	15.7	5.9	25.0	20.3	17.5

Birds of this species evidently become much more brownish and sometimes paler after lying in the cabinet for a long term of years,

¹ Ten specimens, from northeastern North America.

² Eight specimens, from northeastern North America.

since fresh birds are usually darker. The more or less plumbeous cast of the plumage is entirely an individual variation, and the complete lack of it is often due to the age of the skin, like the brownish cast above mentioned. The whitish edgings on the secondaries and tertials, used sometimes by authors as a subspecific or specific distinction, are an indication of fresh plumage, for these apparently soon either partially or completely wear away by abrasion of the feathers. The measurements given above bring out the fact that the female of this subspecies, as in all the other forms of the species. averages slightly larger than the male.

The writer has examined 34 specimens of Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa, including, in addition to those from the localities mentioned in the subjoined table of measurements, birds from the Potomac River and from the State of New York, both without date of capture.

Measurements of specimens of Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa.

U.S.N.M. No.	Sex.	Locality.	Date.	Collector.	Wing.	Tail.		Height of bill at base.	Tarsus.	Middle toe with- out claw.	Fork of tail.
62387 1	1	land, N. B.		H. Herrick	mm. 148.5		mm. 16			mm. 20.8	
62386 ¹ 93003 ¹	do	Off Nantucket Shoals, Mass.	July 28,1883	J. E. Benedict.		84.5 88	16.5 16	6.2	$\frac{22}{24.5}$	20 19.5	20 21
93007 ¹ 75238 ¹	do	Bank Quereau, North Atlantic Ocean.	July 27,1883 Sept.13,1878	R. L. New- comb.	155 156		17 17	6 6.5	24 23		18 23
75242 1	do	Sable Island Bank, Nova Scotia.	Sept. 3,1878	U. S. Fish Commis- sion.	154.5	87	16.2	6	25	21	22.5
25278 ¹	do	do	do	L.M.Turner	151 155	77.5 85 84.5 83	16.5	6.5	$\frac{23.3}{24.8}$	21 21	16 18 21 17.5
65428 192387 211226	Male?	Near Midway Island, Pacific Ocean, Lat. 27° N.; Long. 179°	June 20,1873 Sept.17,1904 Nov. 9,1907	W. H. Dall J. H. Egbert P. Bartsch	153	87	15.1	5.3	24	19	19.5 25.1 16.5
211225	do	E. Near Midway Island, Pacific Ocean, Lat. 27° 20' N.; Long. 172° 45' W.	Nov. 5,19	do	158.5	86	16.2	6.1	24.5	21	22
201457	do	Simushir Island, Kuril Islands, Japan.	June 23,1904	A. H. Clark.	149	84	15.5	6.8	24.5	18	22
93004 1		Off Nantucket Shoals, Mass.	July 28,1883	J. E. Bene- dict.	148	87	17.1			20.5	
111719 1	do	Bird Rocks, Gulf of St. Lawrence, Quehec.	July 9,1887	W. Palmer	152	80	15	6.7	23.5	19.2	15.5
111718 ¹ 75239 ¹		do	do Sept.13,1878	R. L. New- comb.	156 163	84 90	16.5 16	6	23. 8 24. 8	20 20.3	17.5 26.5
12648 ¹ 111858 ¹		Potomac River Off Cape Sable,	Aug. 30,1887	J. Varden W. Palmer			15 17			18.8 22	20 23.5
111765 1	do	Nova Scotia. Penguin Island, Newfoundland.	July 24,1887	do	158	84	15.5	6	24.5	21.8	17.7
		1 TT - 2 I			20						

¹ Used in measurement averages on p.-166.

Measurements of specimens of Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa—Continued.

U.S.N.M. No.	ex.	Locality.	Date.	Collector.	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed cul-	Height of bill at base.	Tarsus.	Middle toe with- out claw.	Fork of tail.
108426 ¹ Fe 211228	lo Ne	x Islands, Maine ar Midway Island Pacific Ocean, Lat. 26° N.; Long. 74° 16′ E.	June 19,1880 Nov. 11,1907	M. Hardy P. Bartsch	161	88	mm. 16.8 15.4	6	24	22	mm. 20.5 17.5
93006.	do Ab	out 100 miles east of Miedni Island, Commander Is- ands, Kamchatka. f Nantucket	June 12,1906 July 27,1883	A. H. Clark. J. E. Bene-			16 16		25.5 24.5		17.5
12857	Ba	Shoals, Mass. y of Fundy, New		dict. J. R. Willis.	156.5		15.8			19.1	
211227	Ne	Brunswick. ar Midway Island, Pacific Ocean, Lat. 6° N.; Long. 74° 16' E.	Nov.11,1907	P. Bartsch	154	84	16	5.9	25.7	18.5	16

¹ Used in measurement averages on p. 166.

OCEANODROMA LEUCORHOA BEALI Emerson.

Oceanodroma beali Emerson, Condor, vol. 8, March 20, 1906, p. 54 (Sitka Bay, Alaska).

Oceanodroma beldingi Emerson, Condor, vol. 8, March 20, 1906, p. 54 (Netarts Bay, coast of Oregon).

Subspecific characters.—Similar to Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa, but decidedly smaller, particularly the wing, tail, exposed culmen, and middle toe.

Measurements.—Male: Wing, 138-151 (average, 144.8) mm.; tail, 75-84 (80.1); exposed culmen, 14.5-15.2 (14.8); height of bill at base, 5.5-6.5 (5.8); tarsus, 22.5-24 (23.2); middle toe without claw, 17.2-19.8 (18.3); fork of tail, 13-22 (18.2). Female: Wing, 143.5-152 (average, 147.6) mm.; tail, 78.5-84.5 (81.6); exposed culmen, 14.5-15.1 (14.9); height of bill at base, 5.5-6 (5.7); tarsus, 22.1-24.2 (23.1); middle toe without claw, 18-19.5 (18.7); fork of tail, 15-18.8 (17.4).

Type-locality.—Sitka Bay, Alaska.

Geographic distribution.—Coast region of northwestern North America: breeds from southeastern Alaska south to the coast of Oregon; migrates south to the coast of California.

Remarks.—There is apparently no color difference between this race and Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa, nor any appreciable difference in the depth of the fork of the tail, but the present form is sufficiently smaller to warrant subspecific separation; in fact, birds from Washington and Oregon have been commonly referred to Ocea-

² Eleven specimens, from the coast of Oregon and Washington.

³ Nine specimens, from the coast of Oregon and Washington.

nodroma leucorhoa kaedingi, but, as shown below, they are certainly not the same as that bird. Specimens from the coast region of Washington and Oregon are most different from Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa, and in present comparisons these have therefore been used as typical. Those from the latter locality form the basis of Oceanodroma beldingi Emerson.1 The birds from the vicinity of Sitka, described by Emerson as Oceanodroma beali,1 do not, however, as supposed by him, differ in color from the birds of Oregon, such difference as was noted by the describer being due to individual variation. Although the birds from Sitka (Oceanodroma beali) are, it is true, slightly larger than those from Oregon, the difference is altogether too slight to warrant recognition in nomenclature, and the two supposed races must therefore be united under the name Oceanodroma beali, which name has anteriority.

Average measurements of birds from the different parts of the range of this subspecies are added below:

Locality.	Wing.	Tail.	Ex- posed culmen.	Height of bill at base.	Tarsus.	Middle toe without claw.	Fork of tail.
Eleven males from the coast of Washington and Oregon. Ten males from the vicinity of Sitka, Alaska. Nine females from the coast of Washington and Oregon. Ten females from the vicinity of Sitka, Alaska.	mm. 144.8 146.7 147.6 149.0	mm. 80.1 81.1 81.6 81.3	mm. 14.8 15.3 14.9 15.3	mm. 5.8 6.0 5.7 5.9	mm. 23.2 23.2 23.1 23.3	mm. 18.3 18.5 18.7 18.9	mm. 18.2 19.2 17.4 18.7

A nestling taken by Mr. G. Willett (No. 239960, U.S.N.M.) on St. Lazaria Island, Alaska, August 11, 1912, has the body barely covered with down, and is so young that the feathers apparently have just begun to grow. In color it is, above, plain gravish brown, between mouse gray and hair brown; and below, of the same color but darker. The date of this specimen indicates the breeding season of the species, which is further corroborated by a nestling taken on Carroll Island, Washington, on August 10, 1915.

Altogether, 99 specimens of this race have been available. addition to the localities already mentioned and those included in the table of measurements below, the following localities are represented by specimens:

Neah Bay, Washington; Destruction Island, Washington (July 11, 1915); Chemoluro Island, Alaska (May 24 and 28, 1884; June 21, 1884); Belkofski Island, Alaska (September 10, 1893); and Forrester Island, Alaska (June 23, 1887, July, 1913, June 23 and 29, 1914).

Measurements of specimens of Oceanodroma leucorhoa beali.

	Fork of tail.	mm. 199.2012.2012.2012.2012.2012.2012.2012.2	1
	Middle toe without claw.	88888888888888888888888888888888888888	T.
	Tarsus.	និងក្នុងនុង្គ មុខក្នុង	1.73
	Height of bill at base.	. က လ လလ ကလောလာတတသ က လေရက လ က လ လလ က လ လလ က လ လ လ လ လ လ လ လ လ လ	7
	Ex- posed culmen.	\$\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	
-	Tail.	\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$	77
	Wing.	### 14.50	•
	Total length.	mm 203 204 205 206 207 208 208 208 208 208 208 208 208 208 208 208 208 208 208 208 208	
	Collector.	J. Grinnell. G. Willett. do. do. do. do. do. do. do.	1
1	Date.	Aug. 25, 1836 July 31, 1912 do. Aug. 1, 1912 Aug. 2, 1912 Aug. 2, 1912 June 2, 1914 June 21, 1897 June 21, 1897 Aug. 1, 1912 Aug. 1, 1912 Aug. 2, 1913 Aug. 1, 1912 Aug. 2, 1914 June 19, 1897 June 20, 1897 Aug. 1, 1914 Aug. 1, 1917 Aug. 1,	
	Locality.	Sitka, Alaska². St. Lazaria Island, Sitka Sound, Alaska. do. do. do. do. Theo Arch Rocks, Netarts, Oregon. Theo Arch Rocks, Netarts, Oregon. do. Da Push, Washington. St. Lazaria Island, Sitka Sound, Alaska. do. do. Da Push, Sitka Sound, Alaska. do. St. Lazaria Island, Sitka Sound, Alaska. do. do. do. do. do. do. do. do. do. do	
	Sex.		
	Museum and number.	J. Grimell 1440. U.S.N.M. 239564 U.S.N.M. 239565 U.S.N.M. 239566 U.S.N.M. 239566 U.S.N.M. 239569 U.S.N.M. 239609 U.S.N.M. 239609 U.S.N.M. 239609 U.S.N.M. 239609 U.S.N.M. 239601 H. T. Bohlman 53 ** H. T. Bohlman 54 ** Game Dept. Oreg 1227 ** Game Dept. Oreg 1227 ** Game Dept. Oreg 1227 ** U.S.N.M. 157757 ** U.S.N.M. 157757 ** U.S.N.M. 157757 ** U.S.N.M. 239601 U.S.N.M. 239601 U.S.N.M. 239601 U.S.N.M. 239601 U.S.N.M. 239601 U.S.N.M. 239601 U.S.N.M. 239603 U.S.N.M. 157776 ** U.S.N.M. 15776 ** U.S.N.M. 15776 ** U.S.N.M. 157	

1 Measured in the flesh by the collector. 2 Type of Oceanodroma beali Emerson. 3 Used in measurement averages on p. 168. 4 Type of Oceanodroma beldingi Emerson.

OCEANODROMA LEUCORHOA KAEDINGI Anthony.

Oceanodroma kaedingi Anthony, Auk, vol. 15, No. 1, January, 1898, p. 37 ("at sea near Guadalupe Island, Lower California").

Subspecific characters.—Similar to Oceanodroma leucorhoa beali, but decidedly smaller, especially the wing, tail, tarsus, and middle toe, the greatest difference appearing in the shortness of the tail; tail much less forked; and pileum more distinctly plumbeous.

Measurements.—Male: Wing, 137-145 (average, 140.4) mm.; tail, 66.5-74.5 (71.1); exposed culmen, 12.8-15 (13.9); height of bill at base, 4.5-6 (5.4); tarsus, 20-21.5 (20.6); middle toe without claw, 15.3-17.2 (16.5); fork of tail, 9.8-17.5 (13.6). Female: 2 Wing, 138-145.5 (average, 142.6) mm.; tail, 67.5-77 (72.4); exposed culmen, 13.5-14 (13.9); height of bill at base, 5-6 (5.5); tarsus, 19.5-21.3 (20.7); middle toe without claw, 15-17.8 (16.4); fork of tail, 10-18.5 (12.6).

Type-locality.—Pacific Ocean off the coast of northern Lower California, in latitude 31° N.; longitude 117° W.

Geographic distribution.—The Pacific coast and islands of Lower California, south to Clarion and Socorro Islands in the Revillagigedo group, Mexico, and north probably also to southern California.

Remarks.—This race is similar to Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa, but in size differs decidedly more from the typical subspecies than it does from Oceanodroma leucorhoa beali. Although the depth of the forking of the tail varies somewhat, as may be seen in the appended table of measurements, it is much less in Oceanodroma leucorhoa kaedingi than in either of the two other subspecies, and is an excellent character for distinguishing the present race. Although Oceanodroma leucorhoa beali is of the same color as Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa, the present form seems to differ in the more distinctly plumbeous shade of the pileum, which the excellent series at our disposal shows to be fairly constant. As may be seen by the above-given characters, Oceanodroma leucorhoa kaedingi is much more different from either Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa or Oceanodroma leucorhoa beali than the two latter are from each other, but it is undoubtedly only a subspecies, since its characters intergrade individually with those of Oceanodroma leucorhoa beali.

All the specimens of Oceanodroma leucorhoa kaedingi at present known have been taken at sea near Guadalupe Island, Lower California, or off the coast of northern Lower California, or in the region southward to the Revillagigedo Islands. Its breeding ground is not definitely known, but may be assumed to be some of the islands within this area. However, it may be a breeding bird on the islands off central and southern California, as birds of this species from the

¹ Seventeen specimens, from the Pacific Ocean, off the coast of northern Lower California. ² Eight specimens, from the Pacific Ocean, off the coast of northern Lower California.

Farallon Islands, California, have not been available in the present connection.

Among the birds examined, not only of this form, but of the two other subspecies of Oceanodroma leucorhoa as well, are specimens in which the middle upper tail-coverts are more or less extensively, sometimes wholly, brown; and in the series of Oceanodroma leucorhoa kaedingi are four specimens, males and females, that have very little white on the upper tail-coverts, this being restricted to the outer vanes of the shortest lateral feathers. This variation is apparently individual, but it may be a lingering mark of the juvenal plumage.

Twenty-five specimens of this form have been examined, all of which are included in the following table of measurements:

Measurements of specimens of Oceanodroma leucorhoa kaedingi.

Carnegie Museu m No.	Sex.	Locality.	Date.	Collector.	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed cul- men.	Height of bill at base.	Tarsus.	Middle toe with- out claw.	Fork of tail.
22210 1	Male	Pacific Ocean, near Guadalupe Island, Lower California, Lat. 28° 35' N.; Long. 118° 31' W.	1897 July 18	A. W. Anthony.	mm. 145	^{mm} .	mm. 14.5	mm. 5. 2	mm. 21	. mm. 16	. mn 11.
22219 1	do	Pacific Ocean, off northern Lower California, Lat. 31° N.; Long.	July 25	do	144	74.5	14. 5	4.5	20.5	15. 5	16
22228 1 22226 1		do	do	do	137.5 139	70 72	14.5 13.8	5.1		16. 2 17	14 15.
22221 1	do	do	do	do	140	71	13.8	6	20.5	17. 2	14
22232 1	do	do	do	do	143	70	14	5.5	21	15.8	13
22225 1	do	do	do	do	138	70	13	6		16	15
22237 1	do	do	do	do	140	71		5.2	20.5	17	12
222221	do					69	12.8	5.5		17	10.
22216 1	do				139.5	66.5	14.3	5.1		17.2	9.
22213 1		do			140.5		13,8		20.8		14.
22238 1		do		do	137		14	5	20, 2	17	16.
22223 1	do	do		do	138		13.5	5.5	20,5	17	13
22236 1	do	do			142		14.5	5.2		16. 8	14.
22214 1	do	do.,				73	13	6	21.5		11.
22231 1	do	do	do		143		15	5.8	21	17. 2	
22217 1	do	do	do	do			13.5			15.3	
22211 1	Female	Pacific Ocean, near Gua- dalupe Island, Lower California, Lat. 28° 35′ N.; Long. 118° 30′ W.	July 18	do	143	67.5	14	5.1	21	17.3	13
22229 1	do	Pacific Ocean, off northern Lower California, Lat. 31° N.; Long. 117°	v	do	144	70	14	5.5	21.3	17.8	11.
22227 1	do	do	do	do	140	73.5	14	6	21	17. 2	11.
22218 1		do			145	77	14	5. 2	21		11
22234 1	do	do			145.5					15. 8	
22233 1		do	do	do		74	13.5		19.5		13
22224 1		do				69	13.8		21		10
22235 1		do				72.5			21	16	12.
22200					4.44			0		-	1200

¹ Used in measurement averages on p. 171. ² Type of *Oceanodroma kaedingi* Anthony.